



Southeast News

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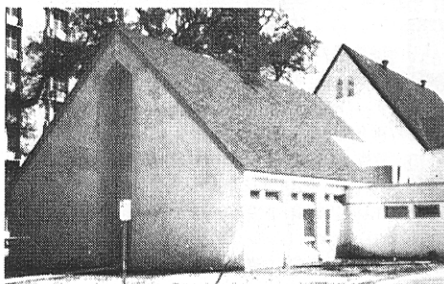
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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New Education Building Dedicated by Savannah, First



Savannah First spent two days celebrating the completion of their new Education Building. A dinner-banquet, held on March 26, had as speaker Dr. James Eaton, professor and Assoc. Dean at Armstrong State College and Savannah State College, and pastor of Midway Church.

Highlighting the celebration was the dedicatory service held Sunday, March 27, when Franklin W. Thomas, Moderator of SE Conference, was speaker.

The Education Building was designed to give the church much needed facilities to reactivate its services to the community, such as the Day Care Center, family dinners, Sunday School classes, family recreation, and other meeting facilities.

Pastor Neil Mosley said: "Part of our dream is now a reality. The other part of this dream has to be done with dedicated Christians, who through prayer will give the dedication needed to use these facilities to the maximum."

KARLTON C. JOHNSON DIES

Rev. Karlton C. Johnson, born June 16, 1906, Pittsfield, Mass., died on April 7, 1977, at his home in Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Johnson had served as Secretary of the Southern Regional Office of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ from January 1, 1963, until his retirement January 1, 1975. He worked in the Southern, Southeast, Florida, and South Central Conferences, with primary responsibility for interpreting and promoting the total mission program of the United Church of Christ.

He worked diligently on statistical records and kept before us our stewardship record. He promoted the needs of the church in all areas. He helped show us what churchmanship is all about, not just in words, but with actions also.

Prior to coming to the Southern area, Mr. Johnson served as Minister of Stewardship and Missions in the New York Conference.

His earlier ministry included service as a pastor in Massachusetts.

For nearly 20 years, he had a colorful and varied career in Southern Africa. During the first six years, with Port Elizabeth as his base, he spent 75% of his time traveling up and down the sub-continent, from Capetown to the Congo and from Namaqualand to Zululand. As Assistant General Secretary of the South African National Sunday School Association, his work was exclusively in the field of Christian Education.

In 1936, he settled in Johannesburg, where he became Executive Secretary of the Johannesburg Sunday School Union. In 1938, he began to devote part time to literacy work and became organizer of



Non-European Libraries for the City of Johannesburg.

An avid stamp collector, his collection of Madonnas and Christmas stamps was enjoyed by many over the years as they were displayed at Central Congregational Church at Christmas time.

Mr. Johnson was serving as Chairman of the Board of Villa International in Atlanta and Chairman of the Committee on Church and Ministry, Ga.-S.C. Association, at the time of his death.

Mr. Johnson leaves his wife, Helen Gardiner Johnson; two children: Bruce of San Jose, California; and Elizabeth Greene of Demorest, Ga., two grandchildren, and one sister.

Cleage Representatives Claim UCC Tie

Recently, representatives of the Black Christian Nationalist Church, with regional headquarters in Atlanta, have introduced their solicitors with letters claiming to be affiliated with the United Church of Christ. We would like to make it clear that although the founder, Rev. Albert Cleage, holds UCC standing in the Detroit Association, the Black Christian Nationalist Church is not affiliated with us.

A letter from Gordon Beale, executive assistant to UCC president, Joseph Evans,

[Cont. on Page 4]

OGHS and Other Offerings

OGHS Offerings from some churches in SE Conferences were outstanding:

Pleasant Hill	\$1,435.75
Belvidere	3,046.00
Huntsville	262.00
Nashville 1st E&R	184.00
Nashville, Brookmeade	184.00
E. Tallassee	133.00

Gifts to UPLANDS in 1976 from SEC:

Churches	\$1,435.00
Individuals	5,122.62
	\$6,557.62

Gifts from six Supporting Conferences:

Churches	\$ 9,416.83
Individuals	8,144.82
Others	142.52

\$17,704.17

Pain, Change, and Affirmation

The Southern California Conference had one of the first Conference Task Forces on Women in the United Church of Christ. Since its formation in 1970, we have had a variety of opportunities to become aware of conduct and language that are hurting too many persons. Most of us responded in anger when first our language was labeled exclusive and dehumanizing. We don't like others confessing our sins, especially when we are unaware of any wrongdoing. I've had two experiences which have helped me understand the importance of language.

I grew up in North Carolina where all of my close friends were non-black. For some reason the term "boy" was used only among my closest male friends as a warm and affirming term. Later, after I reached adulthood and came to have some close male friends who were black, I spontaneously called them "boy" during times of relaxing. Needless to say, they did not feel affirmed by my language, but, rather were hurt and angry. I made an effort to explain the motive behind my word, but very soon decided that if my language hurt my friends, I could no longer use it.

About three years ago I participated in a local church's retreat and in one of the discussion groups heard a woman in her mid years say that when she went to church and bumped into all the exclusively male language she felt so left out and excluded that worship became impossible and, she went on to say, "I really used to worship." It had never occurred to me before that language designed to help people worship was actually preventing it for some who were ready and eager for that experience. Her simple statement really touched me.

The second reaction to having our language labeled exclusive often is to treat the charge as a laughing matter. I am not sure what laughter means within the person who engages in it in this situation, but I know how it appears to those who are the brunt of the laughter. They feel they are labeled as making a big to-do over nothing, of ignoring the fact that technically exclusive language is meant to be inclusive and, of course, should not be offensive to them. There is a correlation here, I think, to ethnic and racial jokes. When we became aware that they hurt people, we not only quit sharing them, we also quit laughing when others repeated them.

I am not implying it is simple to use inclusive language. It is relatively simple to change "mankind" to the more acceptable "humankind" and to say "brothers" and "sisters." However, the pronouns are more complex, especially in

NEWS ITEMS

Chaplain Harold C. Henderson has been assigned to Thule, Greenland, to report no later than July 5. He is recovering from an operation on his arm, and has resigned as Moderator of Georgia-South Carolina Association.

Brookmeade, Howard, and First E&R Churches in Nashville are jointly sponsoring a program of "Folk Dance Classes for Children," to be taught by Ruby Thatcher of Brookmeade. Classes are held on Friday evenings, April 29-June 3, 7:00-8:00 P.M., for grades 2-6.

These three churches planned pulpit exchanges for two Sundays, with Lelan McReynolds at Brookmeade, April 24, and Dr. Wilson Welch at First E&R, June 5. Steve Gray had services at Howard.

Congratulations to Wallace Boothby, (Birmingham Pilgrim) who was elected treasurer of the national Institute of Real Estate Management. Hank Tuttle, pastor, is Commissioner of District Relations Committee of Vulcan Dist. Birmingham Council of Boy Scouts — 250 troops.

Mrs. Kibbie Steele, a member of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, and formerly a student at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California, is now an Associate Minister (part-time) of the San Mateo Congregational Church in California. Dr. R.C. Norberg is the minister.

Our sympathy is expressed to Rev. William R. Winterbottom, pastor of Crossville United Church of Christ, in the death of his mother in Seekonk, Mass., March 19.

Mrs. Viola Cunningham, of Pleasant Hill, TN., much-beloved member of the community, died March 22. She is survived by her husband, T.L. Cunningham, Wharton Nursing Home, at Uplands, Pleasant Hill, TN., and two sons. She spent many years in mission work, especially in the Kentucky mining community at Evarts, when she was Mrs. Eugene Rainey. After coming to Pleasant Hill, she served in a number of capacities. A memorial service was held March 26 at Uplands.

the Bible, when referring to God. The hymns present a real challenge.

If language hurts some persons it seems reasonable that we change it so that the words of our mouths as well as the intentions of our hearts include and affirm all people.

Fred P. Register,
Conference Minister,
Southern California

Easter Into Pentecost

Easter is about new life. So it seems particularly fitting to speak of baptism, because the Sacrament of Baptism is the Church's way of celebrating new life. While the ceremony is brief, it is no haphazard thing we do. Baptism is a symbol of the power of grace, and therefore it is of central importance to our lives individually and together.

From earliest times the Christian Church has baptized the infant children of parents who are consciously part of the people of God. The ceremony is not a "cute" way to show off a baby or name him/her publicly. Baptism is the renewal of our covenant with God, both for ourselves and for our children.

It does not mean that we have to accept a particular set of beliefs. It does mean, in my view, that we re-engage ourselves with God whom we do not fully understand but whom we know as the beginning and the ending and the beginning again of life.

The baptismal vows below are closely related to vows that have been used in the Church for many centuries, but are new in the sense that they have emerged out of conversations with several sets of parents at Circular Church who have presented their children for baptism. They will not be used as a rigid rule, but as an aid to parents in redefining their personal covenant with God and with their child.

As the congregation, we are also part of the child's family, and we have responsibility to the baby and parents.

Our church also baptized adults who want to symbolize and celebrate the new life they have begun to experience in the Christian family.

Baptismal vows at Circular Church:
TO THE PARENTS —

Do you receive this child into your home as a gift from God, not as a possession to be bound tightly to yourselves, but as a precious human life to be loved and nurtured into full maturity and freedom?

As parents, do you acknowledge your own constant need for forgiveness and for growth in the knowledge and love of God, as shown to the world in Jesus Christ?

Do you call the Church your community of faith and hope, and will you accept our loving support and discipline for both yourselves and your children?

TO THE CONGREGATION —

Will you stand with these parents and with me as part of the larger human family, the people of God? Will you reaffirm our common goal to work for a society in which human dignity may flourish and abound, and to create for this child and all children a more human future?

Bert Keller, Pastor
Circular Congregational Church
Charleston, S.C.

Baptism - Child - Parent - Christian Nurture

Central Congregational Church (UCC) of Atlanta, Ga., has developed a unique approach to the Christian nurture of children which involves children and adults of the church in one-to-one relationships. Baptism and the carrying out by the congregation — both parents and other members — of the vows taken in that sacrament is the foundation and central theme of Central Church's program of Christian nurture.

The basic idea is that in baptism the whole congregation accepts the child as member, promising to pray that in years to come the child will acknowledge for himself its faith — the faith of the Church. Let parent, child, and sponsor of a particular age constitute a "Class Council" for carrying out nurture and learning. The Council makes them responsible.

Papers containing materials that explain the sequence of development of the program may be ordered from: Rev. Wm. T. Scott, Jr., Central Congregational Church, 2676 Clairmont Rd., NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

Ministers' Life Bulletin Highlights Butziger

The spring issue of "The Call," publication of Ministers' Life and Casualty Union, has an article on the Rev. Robert A. Butziger, of Deer Lodge, TN., director of the Morgan-Scott project, which we support. Bob, a Presbyterian minister, holds dual standing with our Ala.-Tenn. Association. In the article, Bob describes the development of the Morgan-Scott ten-year plan and urges ministers to plan their insurance programs as carefully.

—David Beebe

TENNESSEE MINISTER DENIED CIVIL RIGHTS

Dr. Paul McDaniel, Minister of Second Missionary Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN., has been denied the right to serve as an elected delegate to a state constitutional convention. The state supreme court denied him this right on the basis of a state constitutional provision prohibiting ministers from serving in legislature. Dr. David Beebe, pastor of Chattanooga Pilgrim Church, is co-chairman of the Clergy Committee for Dr. McDaniel's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. He would be glad to receive contributions toward this effort to secure equal rights for ministers. —David Beebe

MORE THAN BREAD

Giving more than bread will not convert the world in a moment. But our continued witness with and through the bread will allow God to give the increase.

There is a lawyer in Mahasamund in Madyha Pradesh, India, whose name is Mamunker. When we arrived for a prolonged stay, he told us not to try to change the Indian style of living. Many times during the following months we discussed the parallels of Hinduism and Christianity. On our final visit he said rather wistfully, "There is something you have in Christianity which is not in Hinduism — oh, it's there, but we haven't practiced it for a little while." I asked, "How long is a little while?" He answered, "About four hundred years." And I said, "What is the essence?" and he replied, "Serving others without hope of reward."

Many gave more than bread when they participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing. On behalf of the many around the world who will be blessed by this witness, we express thanks to God.

—David Stowe

UNFAMILIAR HYMNS?

Don't close the book! If you do, you are closing your mind and heart to one of the most important parts of your worship service — one in which you can be an active participant. Our hymns are very carefully chosen for their text. We spend much time selecting words that are pertinent and relevant to the topic of the sermon, or whichever segment of worship we are working with. So, listen first!

Often we will use a familiar tune, in which case you are home free — free to concentrate on these words as you sing them. If not, give God your best manners and be a good sport, try singing it with us. (Remember, you are not born knowing "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" or "I Love to Tell the Story" either.) Don't worry at all if you aren't on pitch — it will sound great to God, who is lovingly tone-deaf at times like this. (Selected from Fellowship of United Methodists Musicians, Carol Clemens, author, *News & Notes*.)

Scout Receives Unusual Award

Mr. Wiley Sullivan was the first Cub Scout in the state of Tennessee, and only the tenth Cub Scout in the nation to receive the coveted "God and Family Award." The award required more than six weeks of work between Wiley, his mother and Rev. Stephen Gray, pastor of Brookmeade C.C. Church.

News Items

CAMPS PLANNED

May 27-29 — UCY mini-camp at Montgomery YMCA campground. Cost, \$25.00.

July 31-Aug. 6 — week-long Junior YCY Camp at Boy Scout Camp just outside West Point.

Camp Leadership Training was held at Lanett Church, April 16.

Rev. David Chandler attended the annual meetings of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers April 21 in Newark, New Jersey, representing us.

Delegates to General Synod are: Franklin W. Thomas (Atlanta), Mrs. Phemie Young (Chattanooga) and Harold N. Auler, Jr. (Lanett).

Rev. Roy Heath, pastor of Haleyville Ala., Union Grove, was recently hospitalized, but is out and going now.

Dr. Joseph Gayles, teacher of Science at Morehouse College in Atlanta, is the new President of Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.

Lee Gable, speaking on the Statement of Faith at Pleasant Hill, TN., said, "Every generation should review and perhaps rewrite a Statement of Faith in the language of the present."

Rev. W. David Chandler has resigned as pastor of the Hillside Christian Church (UCC), LaGrange, Ga., effective June 30, 1977, to accept a pastorate in Florida. Mrs. Brenda Chandler has resigned as Secretary of the SE Conference.

Rev. Roger Loosier was installed as pastor of Lowell C.C. Church (UCC), Roanoke, Al., April 17, by the East Alabama Association, Rev. John D. Schofield, Moderator, and Revs. Warren A. Blakenhorn, Harold N. Auler, Jr., Joe A. French, Frank Sledge and W.J. Andes.

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Tentative Program of 11th Annual Meeting of the S.E. Conference

Theme: "Our United Church Heritage . . ."

Friday Night, June 10, 1977: Central Congregational Church
2676 Clairmont Rd., N.E., Atlanta, Ga.

- 7:00 P.M. - Registration
- 8:00 P.M. - Review Committees, David L. Beebe Coordinating
Outreach Church and Ministry
Education Reference and Counsel
- Youth Assembly (8th grade and up): Central Church and at DeKalb Federal Savings & Loan Association, 2700 Clairmont Rd., N.E.
- Previews of Audio-Visuals — "To Walk Together" and others.
- Exhibits: from Amistad Research Center, Uplands, Atlanta Artists, and Elon Home for Children.
- 9:45 P.M. - Evening Prayers, William T. Scott, Jr., Minister Central Church.

Saturday Morning, June 11, 1977: Central Congregational Church

- 9:00 A.M. - Registration
- Exhibits and Previews of Audio-Visuals
- 9:30 A.M. - Music, Franklin Thomas
- 10:00 A.M. - Youth Assembly, DeKalb Federal Bank
- Constituting Prayer, Lelan D. McReynolds
- Call to Order and to the task before the Conference, F.W. Thomas
- Welcome and Greetings, W.T. Scott, Jr. and H.C. McEwen
- Introduction of Guests
- Roll Call of Churches and Ministers
- 1976 Annual Meeting Minutes, Brenda Chandler
- 1976 Financial Statement, J.R. Wilson, Jr.
- 10:45 A.M. - Reports of Review Committees
- 11:30 A.M. - The Conference Minister: "A Place in the Sun"
- 12:15 P.M. - Lunch at Central Church

Saturday Afternoon, June 11, 1977: Downtown Atlanta

- 2:00 P.M. - MARTA Buses leave from Central Church parking lot for downtown Atlanta. Tour includes Emory University, MARTA construction sites, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center, Atlanta University Center, and other historical places. Delegates and visitors will meet at the State Capitol (or a nearby location) for discussion of "Issues That Face Us These Days."
- 6:30 P.M. - Banquet at the Interdenominational Theological Center with Bill Jackson, Chairman of Program Committee, presiding.
"Ole Thermometer U," H.C. McEwen, Warren Blankenhorn, and others
Musical Concert, Dr. G. Johnson Hubert, Director of Music, Morehouse College.
17/76 Achievement Fund, A.M.A. Colleges and the next 100 years - John Charles Mickle.
- 8:45 P.M. - Buses leave for Central Church.
- 9:30 P.M. - Open Hearing on the Issues Facing the Eleventh General Synod, June 29-July 5, 1977, Washington, D.C., Richard Griffiths.
(Fellowship Hall, Central Church)

Sunday Morning, June 12, 1977: First Congregational Church

Courtland at Houston, N.E., Atlanta, Ga.

- 9:00 A.M. - Morning Prayers, Ann Simmons and Youth Assembly
Business Session
- 11:00 A.M. - Service of Worship - Homer C. McEwen, Leader
Andrew Young, Ambassador to the United Nations, Preacher (Pending)
Adjournment

NEW BOARD MEMBERS OF ELON HOME FOR CHILDREN



Six new members of the Board of Directors for Elon Home for Children [Elon College, N.C.] shown above are: [LR] Mrs. J.D. Strader, Jr. of Burlington, Paul H. Ridge of Burlington, Ralph Kirkpatrick, Jr. of Burlington, Rev. Warren Blankenhorn of Phenix City, Al., Henry Hayes of Mebane, and Mrs. Bruce Burton of Greensboro.

Save Stamps for New Farm Tractor at Elon

Once more we ask our friends to save coupons and trading stamps for us. This time we are hoping to get enough to buy a Farmall Super "A" tractor, now known as Series 140.

How much we need this tractor is evidenced in the fact that the one we have is a 1950 model which has been repaired so much it can't be repaired any more. In fact, we have even repaired the repairs.

Please save Red Scissors, Betty Crocker (General Mills), Bonus Gifts, and cigarette coupons, and all kinds of trading stamps, such as S&H Green stamps, Gold Bond, Triple S, Plaid, and Top Value. We'll surely appreciate your helping us. Send them to Elon Home for Children, P.O. Box 257, Elon College, N.C. 27244.

CLEAGE . . .

[Cont. from Page 1]

reads in part:

"The Black Christian Nationalist Church is in no manner affiliated, identified or collaborative with the United Church of Christ.

"The Reverend Albert B. Cleage is a ministerial member of the United Church of Christ, holding full standing granted by the Detroit Association of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ. However, such standing grants neither approval nor disapproval of Mr. Cleage's relationship to the Black Christian Nationalist Church."

—D.L. Beebe